

RESCREENING: For Breast Cancer

A Guide for Screening Programs

**Texas Department of Health
Bureau of Women's Health
Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program**

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I. Statement of Need

Breast cancer screening, which includes a clinical breast examination and mammogram, is effective in identifying *existing cancerous conditions* and reducing mortality. However, in order for breast cancer screening to be most effective, the screening must be conducted at *regular intervals*, particularly as a woman ages and her risk for breast cancer increases.

II. Goal of Rescreening

The BCCCP's goal is that at least 35 percent of all eligible women receive a breast cancer rescreening. During each twelve-month budget period, each contractor must rescreen the minimum required percentage of women from priority population.

III. Definition of and Eligibility for Rescreening

Rescreening is the process of returning for a screening test at a predetermined interval, usually one year, when no symptoms are present.

A woman is eligible for rescreening if she:

- received a BCCCP-funded breast cancer screening (clinical breast examination and mammogram) during the previous 12-month budget period (the baseline year); **and**
- still meets the program's eligibility requirements.

IV. Rescreening the Priority Population

Each contractor must ensure that no less than 75 percent of all mammograms funded in a budget period are provided to women age 50-64. A contractor may rescreen a woman age 40-49 every other year if she was enrolled prior to October 1, 1994, or if the woman is considered high risk (a woman with a history of breast biopsy).

V. Components of Breast Cancer Rescreening

A. Client Education

The contractor must provide and document screening information to every woman who is rescreened. The following information must be explained verbally to each woman in her primary language and may be supplemented with printed or audio-visual materials in the woman's primary language:

- importance of regular screening;
- possible results;
- eligibility requirements; and
- the shared responsibility of the client and the contractor in following through with regular screening.

B. Recall of Clients

Contractors must attempt to notify each woman in writing of her regular screening due date.

VI. BCCCP Responsibilities

The BCCCP is responsible for assisting contractors to reach eligible women and meeting minimum rescreening rates. The BCCCP will provide the following support to each contractor for rescreening:

List of Eligible Women: two months prior to the target month, the BCCCP will distribute to each contractor a list of names of women due to be rescreened in the target month.

Materials Development and Distribution upon request: The BCCCP will distribute reminder mail-out pieces to each contractor upon request.

Monitoring: The BCCCP will monitor the **proportion of women rescreened** for each contractor. The BCCCP may require a screening plan from contractors that consistently fail to achieve rescreening requirements.

Training and Technical Assistance: The BCCCP will develop plans for technical assistance and support as indicated. The proportion of women rescreened is incorporated into the performance indicators for each screening and diagnostic contract in the next budget period.

VII. Exceptions

Contractors **are not required to rescreen a woman** if the contractor has documented that she:

- cannot be located or has moved from the contractor's service area;
- no longer meets the program's income eligibility standard;
- has Medicare Part B or other health insurance which provides coverage for breast cancer screening;
- refuses (in writing or verbally) to return for program services;
- received a BCCCP-funded breast cancer screening within the previous 11 months;
- is age 40-49 and received a BCCCP-funded breast cancer screening within the last 24 months; or
- is clinically ineligible (i.e., her screening cycle has changed due to an abnormal result, treatment for breast cancer or any other medical condition for which the clinician recommends delaying rescreening).